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The CAROLINA FARMER

APRIL, 1967

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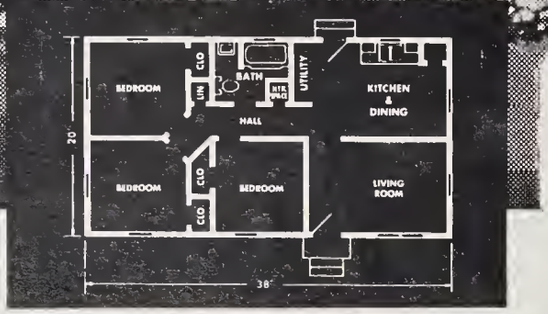

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The CAROLINA FARMER

Vol. 22, No. 4, April, 1967

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COVER—The USS North Carolina's big guns boom for a sound and light spectacle at Wilmington. The show plays nightly during spring and summer months to audiences seated in an outdoor theater. The battleship is one of the leading tourist attractions along the North Carolina coasts. Photo by Hugh Morton. Reproduced by courtesy of the USS North Carolina Battleship Commission.

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THE CAROLINA FARMER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY TARHEEL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT MEMPHIS, TENN. 38118. EDITORIAL OFFICES, SUITE 911, BRANCH BANK BUILDING, RALEIGH, N. C. 27601. POSTMASTER, SEND FORM 3579 TO BOX 1699, RALEIGH, N. C. 27602. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE 66 CENTS PER YEAR. PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT 3781 LAMAR AVE., MEMPHIS, TENN. 38118. CONTENTS COPYRIGHTED 1967 BY TARHEEL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION, INC.

A Challenge For Now

The energy and determination which have made the rural electrification program the success it is, can and should be used to light the way for the campaign against rural proverty.

Rural poverty is everybody's problem, but it is particularly a challenge for members and leaders of the rural electric cooperatives. They, you and all who have helped and are helping keep the spirit of cooperation strong will find it grows stronger with the using, and you of the EMC groups must step forward to show others how the anti-poverty campaign can achieve its goals.

A survey made by the Census Bureau and the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1965 showed that although less than 30 per cent of the nation's population live in rural areas, over 43 per cent of our total economic poverty is found in these areas.

The figures can be cited as a tacit indictment of our failure to exercise rural leadership and resourcefulness. A national authority on the subject, Dr. C. Edwin Gilmour of Grinnell College in Iowa, said as much recently in speech before a Conference on rural poverty sponsored the National Association for Community Development in Washington.

"Economic poverty exists and persists in rural America to a much greater degree than in urban America," Dr. Gilmour said, "because of the low level and ineffective nature of the human development services in rural areas. . ."

Surely this can't be said of rural electrification, not as it has been cooperatively developed by the rural electric membership cooperatives.

Surely the workers and leaders in rural electrification have the resources and experience to serve the anti-poverty campaign without stinting in their own cause but rather by expanding their own movement and, in fact, by serving themselves.

It's a fresh challenge for the EMC's, and their record shows they have the grit and gumption to make their efforts against rural poverty count.

Jim Chaney

Battleship in the Woods

Coming out from Wilmington, visitors get their first glimpse of her as they cross the bridge towards Southport—not all of her, but the masts of her showing incongruously through cypress trees.

A battleship in the woods: the U. S. S. North Carolina miles from the ocean and years from the war she was built to fight, a shrine now and a tourist lure.

Signs point the way to her inland mooring, and when visitors reach her they can look from her decks or from the big parking lot beside her into downtown Wilmington across the river.

Queen in Armor

The USS North Carolina was one of the last of the Navy's armored queens and with the USS Missouri, the USS Iowa, the USS New Jersey and the USS Wisconsin, one of the last five and mightiest to fire their guns in battle. Their era ended with the change in naval tactics from big surface fleets to aircraft carriers, missile launchers and fleets of missile-firing, nuclear-powered submarines.

A few still lie in mothball storage, awaiting final decisions as to their fates. Too expensive to operate for casual duties and too large and specialized for easy conversion, they seem likely to go, as the others have gone, either into scrap or to the states whose names they bear as memorials.

North Carolinians donated more than $330,000 in a statewide campaign to bring the USS North Carolina home. She was brought from Bayonne, N. J. in October, 1961, under tow and negotiated into a tight berth dredged as an arm off the Cape Fear River. There she sits now, and there North Carolinians expect she will sit permanently.

More than 2,000,000 people have seen her since she came. They have walked her decks, climbed her ladders, explored her turrets and sat where her captains and admirals have sat, on her bridge and in her control rooms, and they have not tired of coming. The crowds not only are as large as ever, they seem to be getting larger, and the commission which has charge of her keeps adding features or opening sections which had been closed. Various below-deck areas have been opened, allowing visitors to tour a complete gallery and cafeteria, bakery, butcher shop, grocery and staples supply, ship's post office and soda shop, engine room, medical and dental offices, and a shipboard museum, which contains among its treasures a magnificant silver service.

There Was a Time

There was a time when fighting men on a fighting ship, eating in the USS North Carolina's messes consumed 15 tons of potatoes, 100,000 dozen eggs, 128,000 pounds of flour and 21,000 pounds of lard, as part of their rations in a normal 60 days at sea.

Now children sit in the captain's chair, and crank the handles of the anti-aircraft gun mounts, and pretend the things that seamen did on battleships and, except in pretense, in the woods, where the North Carolina rests at the end of all her voyages, never will be done again.

Jim Chaney

SMALL BUT GOOD

We enjoy *The Carolina Farmer*. It's small with a lot of good reading. I especially like the Kitchen Corner, Becky's Almanac and the patterns, also the Mail Box. Oh, it's all interesting but these are my favorites. Thank you for the pattern you will send me. I hope I can make it.

Mrs. W. F. Thompson
Route 2, Box 375
Thomasville, N. C. 27360

A NEED EXPRESSED

One of the major advantages of self-help housing is in minimizing the amount of money that a family has to borrow to build a home. Contractors in the Franklin area have been bidding $8,900 for the same house that can be built under self-help for $6,000.

Keeping the loan at $6,000 has several advantages to the self-help home owner.

1. A savings of over $9,000 is realized during the 32-year life of the loan. The monthly payments on the $6,000 self-help loans are approximately $32 (4% interest). The monthly payments on a $8,900 loan would be approximately $56. (6% interest). The savings of approximately $24 per month amount to over $9,000 in 32 years.
2. When the self-helper moves into a $8,900 house with only a $6,000 loan, he already has an equity of $2,900 in his house.

A self-helper without a building site can take advantage of this "sweat-equity" down payment. F.H.A. is permitted to add the cost of a reasonably-priced lot to the $6,000 building material loan. If the total F.H.A. loan with land then comes to $6,800, F.H.A. still has in effect a down payment of $2,100, and the self-helper has been able to get 100% financing on house and lot.

If Self-Help is to have the greatest possible impact on low income rural housing needs, some alternate financing of an experimental nature would be helpful. Families who did not meet the criteria for F.H.A. Self-Help loans because of past financial instability could be confronted with their position and offered the possibility of an experimental loan if they were willing to avail themselves of financial and general counseling.

Harold Warstler
Franklin

TARHEEL RURAL LINES

reports on events of importance to rural electric co-op members/by J. C. Brown Jr.

Utilities Commission Gets First Contested Territorial Application

THE N. C. UTILITIES COMMISSION on Feb. 28 received the first contested application for territory under the 1965 Utilities Act. The legal conflict began when Central Electric Membership Corporation of Sanford filed for aervice areas in parts of five counties, and six days later Carolina Power & Light Co. filed for the same.

While Central and CP&L spent several weeks in good faith attempting to negotiate an agreement prior to filing, it has been accepted as inevitable since the legislation was conceived by representatives of power companies and cooperatives that there would be legal battles. This is not a weakness in the law; it apparently accomplishes what it set out to do: For the first time, the General Assembly gave the long-time utility combatants a written law on which to base their claims for exclusive territories.

Negotiations between power companies and cooperatives operating in the same counties have been in progress for several months, in response to a request from the Utilities Commission that they map their lines and try to reach agreement before filing. Two agreements have been filed—between Duke Power Company and Davidson Electric Membership Corporation for all counties in which they both serve, and between Halifax, Virginia Electric Power Co., and Carolina Power and Light Co. in respect to Warren County. The Utilities Commission has not yet ruled on any of the filings.

The Central-CP&L dispute may well serve as a test case and a guide for future assignments. Whatever the Commission's ruling, it is likely to be appealed to the courts.

The 1965 Act provided in part that suppliers' existing lines would be granted 300-foot protection on either side, and the Utilities Commission would assign by boundaries all other rural territory either to a power company or electric cooperative.

The assignment is exclusive only as it affects power companies and cooperatives. Municipal power operations outside of town are not affected by the law. There the towns remain free to duplicate lines of the utilities.

Other exceptions of the exclusive assignment requirement are where lines are already so intermingled that assignment would not protect the public from duplication of facilities, and in remote areas where there is no demand for service. In these cases, the Commission can leave territory unassigned.

OUR UNDERSTANDING is that part of the disagreement arose from CP&L's desire to widen the 300-foot corridor in respect to transmission lines to something more than what the law specifies, and to leave certain areas with good growth potential unassigned.

(Continued on next page)

TARHEEL RURAL LINES

reports on events of importance to rural electric co-op members/by J. C. Brown Jr.

(Continued from Page 5)

The cooperative takes an opposing view. Under the law, no distinction is made between a transmission line and a distribution line. Both have 300-foot protection—no more; and failure to assign developing territories puts the cooperative back where it was before the act was passed—with no protection for developing areas it is already serving.

★★★

Power Towns Seek Bright New Image

THE GROUP OF TOWNS organized to lobby for a law giving them the right to take over electric utility property upon annexation gave a left-handed tribute to taxpaying rural electric cooperatives and power companies last month. The N. C. Municipally Owned Electric Systems (NCMOES) mailed an urgent memo to members seeking permission to change the name to "Taxpayer Owned Power Systems of North Carolina," or "TOPS."

The rural electric cooperatives operating in the state on January 1 became fully liable for all gross receipts, ad valorem, license plates, and other state and local taxes with the exception of the tax on profits (cooperatives operate non-profit and have nothing to tax there). This will mean an additional $2 to $3 million in taxes to North Carolina agencies this year. The towns, of course, pay no taxes on business done either inside or outside their corporate limits.

In the memo, dated Feb. 25, the N. C. MOES advised that "members of the North Carolina General Assembly will be more impressed with anything concerning taxpayers and especially with 'Taxpayer Owned Power Systems'."

★★★

ROTCOT, IOU, TOPS By Any Other Name . . .

WE HAVE ALL SORTS of fanciful visions of name games with which to capture the hearts of our allegedly impressionable legislators. Our secret statisticians tells us that 99 per cent of our managers and directors are church members.

It might help our cause if we adopted the name, "Religously Operated Taxpaying Consumer Owned Power Systems," or "ROTCOPS" for short. It does have more imagery than the alphabetical shortening of Tarheel Electric Membership Association. On the other hand, it falls far short of the picture evoked by the "Investor Owned Utilities" initials.

Using initials to attain a corporate image and influence legislation has its dangers. The General Assembly may continue its tradition of deciding the fate of bills on their merits, rather than on the sponsor's name. Then, there's the cruel propensity people have of spelling names backward, and who would want to be called "SPOCTOR," or in the case of the Taxpayer Owner Power Systems, "SPOTs"?

Spring Is A Slow Mule

White is the color of dogwood, and pink, when the root is split, and purple's the wealth of richness by which spring is welcomed in thrift.

Sing out, and make your verses as you go. Now is the season for singing.

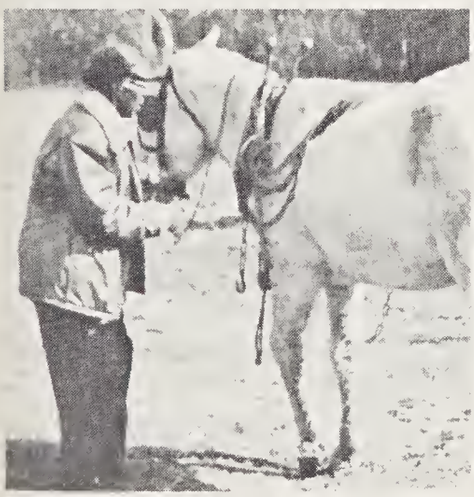
The man with the mule sang. He was plowing a garden in the backyard of a house on the east side of town. It wasn't much of a garden, but then the man with the mule didn't have much of a song.

He was coming down the streets with his mule hitched to a lopsided wagon when he was hailed. He was riding on a board up front, slumped forward with the reins loosely held. Behind him were a plow and harrow. Both were brown with rust, and both were patched with rusted bailing wire.

A Hymn and Holler

He sang low, to himself. The song might have been a hymn. You couldn't tell. Perhaps he couldn't tell himself, and now and then he would break it off to holler to his mule.

The people for whom he was plowing hadn't asked his name, or where he lived, or where he was going when they saw him passing. He was the same man, though, they thought, who had come past last year and the year before. They never had known how to find him or telephone him; they waited until he happened by, and he always came about the same time of the year.



When spring comes, so does the mule.

Sidney Jones Cary had a stroke about a year ago, and he doesn't plow as much as he used to. His mule and wagon now belong to a neighbor, Ed Simmons, who was sick when the pictures were made. Ed says he is getting a bit too old to do much garden work but still hopes to do some this year. Photos by Truman King.

"How much?" they had asked him. "We just need a couple of rows. Not planning on anything but a few tomatoes. That's about all we can keep hoed."

Oh, about two dollars, he had answered. They weren't sure they wanted to pay more than a dollar and a half.

"Well, go ahead," they said. "Since we stopped you, you might as well run off a couple of rows."

The man with the mule pulled into their drive and when the mule had been unhitched from the wagon and hitched to the plow, he went to work.

A neighbor of the people came over to watch. The neighbor wanted a garden plowed, too, and soon the man with the mule had agreed to take on that job and another further down the street.

His Song Lingers On

He plowed and he sang, low and softly to himself. Most people now had their gardens plowed by tractor, and many who once had gardens now had given them up. On the street where he worked now, a man for whom he once had plowed several years back was plowing for himself, walking behind a small garden tractor.

But he sang. Or perhaps it wasn't a song but a moan. In another year or so he wouldn't come that way. He was getting old, his mule was old. The plow and harrow wouldn't last much longer, nor would the wagon. And people weren't keeping gardens as they used to, not on that street.

When he was done with that yard and the others, it was nearly dark. He loaded the plow and harrow into the wagon, hitched the mule between the shafts and drove away, the wagon cracking and its rims crunching on the gravel, leaving behind a song of their own.

Back with the Flowers

The people for whom he had plowed listened to him go. He'd be back, they told each other. He was like the birds that come back and the flowers. He'd come like the jonquils and the red japonica. You'd look out to the street one spring evening and there he'd been, passing with his mule and the wagon. And then in no more time than it takes to plow a couple of rows he'd be gone again. Like the jonquils. With a low song.

Sing out, and make your verses as you go.

How soon the hasty daffodil, call it jonquil if you will, has given up its blossom. How soon then will the tulip come. How soon the beauty passes.

Jim Chaney

A Better Home a Poor Man's Way

Five trim, well-planned new homes are taking final form in Macon County's mountains. They are among the many products of community action anti-poverty programs being conducted across the state. They are the products also of the same sort of cooperative effort which has worked so well in rural electrification.

Deep in the mountains between Highlands and Franklin, on Buck Creek Road in Macon County, naked light bulbs have glared on wintry nights; electric saws have screamed and hammers have beat a staccato accompaniment.

The lights and noise are familar now. In the long months since the lights and noise began, from 6 to 10, each weekday night, and through the day each Saturday, grit, gumption and cooperation have been working a change.

Grit, gumption and cooperation have made the electric membership corporations the successes they are today.

On Buck Creek Road in Macon County, grit gumption and cooperation are building better homes. Five new, trim, well-designed and conveniently arranged modern homes for five hard-put mountain families.

An Example for all

What is being done in Macon County is being done through the Macon Program for Progress (MPP) Self-Help Housing Project. The Macon Program for Progress is one of many such community action organizations formed since the North Carolina Fund anti-poverty agency was established, and it is an example of what can be done by community action programs anywhere in the state.

Five 24-by-40 foot houses are involved in the project. Each has three bedrooms, bath, modern kitchen, dining room, living room and comforts and spaciousness impossible in the usual houses of the area.

The five houses are being built by the five men involved, divided into two work teams headed by paid, professional contractors who serve as "lead men." Four of the houses will cost $6,000 each and the fifth, $5,500. The figures cover materials only. The home builders all received loans in these amounts from the U.S. Farmers Home Administration. Each loan is for 33 years, at an interest rate of four percent, with payment beginning August 8, 1967.

Lester Reed does his share of work.

The lead men and project supervisor are paid from a grant to the Macon Program for Progress by the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity. The cost per house for the lead man is about $750 and for the supervisor, about $250.

Homes at a Bargain

The homebuilders themselves contribute the labor. If labor had to be paid the investment would run to approximately $2,500 more per house, or to a total of about $8,500 each.

Any way you figure, the houses represent a bargain. Thus, for a loan of $6,000, plus about $1,000 for the "lead man" and project supervisor, and a paper figure of $2,500 for labor, the five Macon families are getting far better homes than they or most of their neighbors ordinarily could afford.

Macon is a poor county. Over half of its residents — 56 per cent of them according to figures used by the Macon Program for Progress—are impoverished.

Inadequate housing is as common to Macon as rocks and gullies.

Nowhere is the housing problem more evident than on Buck Creek Road.

Nobody Tried Harder

And nobody on Buck Creek Road has done more to improve the outlook than Fred and Imogene Woodall, Lester and Evelyn Reed, Frank and Lois Houston, Mike and Kay Houston, and Everett and Barbara Barnes. They are the five married couples who wanted better homes badly enough to try for them. They are the couples who made Macon's Self-Help Housing Program show results.

Fred is in his early 30's. He and Imogene have four children: two boys, aged 6 and 11, and two girls, aged 3 and 9. Fred had seven years of schooling. He has worked as a logger, for General Motors in Michigan and in a furniture factory in Florida. Now, after approximately three years of working for the State Highway Department, he is a "temporary" employee paid $1.40 per hour, with no fringe benefits.

The Woodalls have been living in a two-story frame house in fair condition. The house belongs to a man in Florida who comes up for the summer and lives in another house on the same land. Fred has been getting his old house rent free in return for caring for the property. The Woodall's new home stands on an adjacent lot.

One Makes it Different

Lester Reed also is in his early 30's. He and Evelyn have three boys, aged 4, 5, and 6, and a baby girl. He had eight years of schooling. He has worked at a golf course as handyman and caddy, and he now drives a concrete truck for a Highlands construction company.

Lester's house is the only one not being built on Buck Creek Road. That is where he has been living but the only building lot he could find was on Gold Mine Road nearer Highlands.

Frank Houston is 40. He and his wife Lois have five boys, aged 12, 11, 8, 7, and 2, and an eight-year-old daughter. He had three years of schooling. He works as a rock mason in the summer and as a carpenter in the winter. He and his family lived in a crumbling log cabin set on a rocky knoll on his father's property. The cabin was built by Frank's grandfather and originally had one big room. Frank added to it and partitioned it to make four very crowded rooms. The cabin has electricity but no wall outlets, and it has running water which is pumped up from the creek.

A Job for Winter

Frank used to be idle every winter, although he was able to keep busy as a rock mason during the summer. Since entering the self-help housing program, his carpentry skills have been improved so much that a small contractor living in the same valley has hired Frank as a regular hand. The contractor is the lead man for Frank's team.

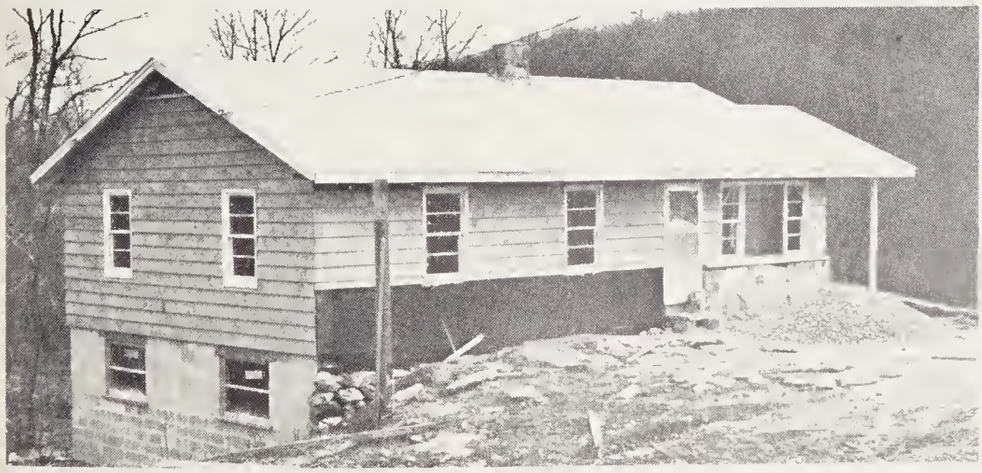
Mike Houston is 22. He is Frank's brother. He and his wife Kay had no children when this was written. They have been living with his father in an old frame house on the knoll beside Frank's cabin. Mike had 10 years of schooling. He works, when he can, as a carpenter. His new house is on an almost flat lot across the road from Frank's.

Mrs. Everett Barnes and her old home.

Handier for Barbara

Everett Barnes is 28. He and his wife Barbara have a two-year old son and two daughters, aged 7 and 5. He had eight years of schooling and he works, when there's work, as a carpenter, earning about $2,400 a year. He and his family have been living in a two-room frame house on a ledge on a very steep slope of Buck Creek Road. Barbara has had to go outside for everything—coal for heating, wood for cooking, water from a spring for washing, but she has had electricity.

The Barnes' new house is on a flat place on a less steep slope about 200 yards from their old house.



Economical and conveniently planned, five houses like this become new homes.

Frank Houston, Everett Barnes and Fred Woodall have been working as a team with Bob Calloway as their lead man. Lester Reed and Mike Houston have had Max Hollan as their lead man.

It Took Some Doing

Julian Griggs is executive director of the Macon Program for Progress.

Harold Warstler, deputy director of MPP, is supervisor for the self-help building project, and the prime mover in getting the project started.

Back in 1965 he approached the local FHA office with his idea. FHA had available some new self-help loans at 4 per cent interest for people normally ineligible for FHA or commercial loans because of their low income.

In the coming months Warstler spent many hours discussing the project with interested families and negotitating with OEO and FHA. On June 1, 1966, OEO approved funds for the administration of the program and the construction leadership.

Finally on August 8, 1966, five men closed FHA self-help loans of $6,000. They walked out of the office, drove back up the mountain, and Buck Creek Road residents were amazed to see home foundations being dug that same night.

A Way for Morale

Since then the five home-builders and their lead men have turned up every week night for four hard hours of work on their houses. The work teams rotate from house to house so that all families will be able to move in together. This way each man sees progress on his own house at frequent intervals. Substaining group morale is extremely important, says project supervisor Warstler.

Warstler sees housing as a key to the proverty problem in Macon County. Though he does not regard it as panacea, he reasons that if a family can move from a cramped and depressing environment to a comfortable modern home, they might then be better able to profit from other lower income programs.

(Continued on Page 19)

Hunting the Black Duck In the Coastal Marshes

By Louis Howard

There is no joy comparable to the thrill of stalking and killing the wary Black Duck. Almost unknown to many hunters, the coastal marsh lands of Eastern North Carolina provide an abundant supply of waterfowl, especially the highly prized Black Duck.

Some duck hunters tend to frown on hunting waterfowl in these salt water areas because they believe that if they bag a bird in this area, the meat will have a rank odor and fishy taste. This is not the case.

If prepared properly, ducks from this area will not differ from those taken from other nearby freshwater locations. It is true that some ducks do make an entire diet of fish, but not the Black Duck. On his daily flights inland to fresh water ponds and streams, he relishes tender plants and acorns. While in the salt marshes, he will consume marsh grass, seed, small mussels, and gather gravel for his digestive system.

Stalk with Stealth

Black Ducks are hunted in two ways in the marsh area: he is stalked or he is decoyed. You must always remember that in the marsh lands the tides play an important part in which of the two types of hunting you will choose. When the tide is low, stalking is the most common. The birds during this time are usually resting in shallow water, oiling their feathers or gathering gravel on shell-invested sand bars.

The Author With Blacks and Mallards

When a Black Duck is stalked, great caution must be taken. First, the ducks must be located by observing their descent and pitch. In order to know their actual position you must mark them by sighting on an object in the distance directly in line with the ducks. You will then estimate or calculate the distance of the ducks from you and start your cautious stalk.

A good rule to remember is to walk with your face in the wind. Black ducks are very cautious and the slightest unnatural sound will alert their keen sense of hearing and put them to flight. If you walk into the wind, with the ducks in front of you, it will be more difficult for the noise of your steps to reach them. Sometimes the crackling of the dead marsh grass or the crunching of oyster rock under your boots will flush them, but there may still be a chance if you freeze immediately after doing so.

Seek the Islands

When the tide creeps to the tops of the marsh grass, it is then time to retreat to the nearest blind and try a hand at decoying. One of the most highly sought places to decoy Black Ducks in the salf marsh can be found on one of the many small islands which dot the area. These small islands are ideal for decoying due to the fact that they provide good natural cover and hold back the penetrating tide.

After the site has been located, extreme caution must be taken not to leave any unnatural objects in view of the wary Black Duck. After you have taken a few added pains to get everything in top shape to entice them into gun range it will probably pay to check once more to be doubly sure.

Spare the Call

When you get the ducks' attention you can then spare the duck call unless you're an expert. Many a hunter has scared off Blacks that possibly would have come in if the hunter had not gotten off thatlast quack. Very seldom do Blacks pitch in the decoys in the marsh area, so my advice is not to wait for them to do so before cutting loose. Many times Blacks circle before making their final swoop over the decoys. The time to let them have it is on their first swing in range.

Louis Howard, a 1964 alumnus of Wake Forest College, is a physical education teacher and coach at Wilmington's Roland Grise Junior High School. He formerly taught English and history in Winston-Salem. He has been hunting the Black Duck for 12 years and has bagged as many as 60 in a season. During the 1966-67 season he got 38.

PASSING SCENE

TRAVELERS

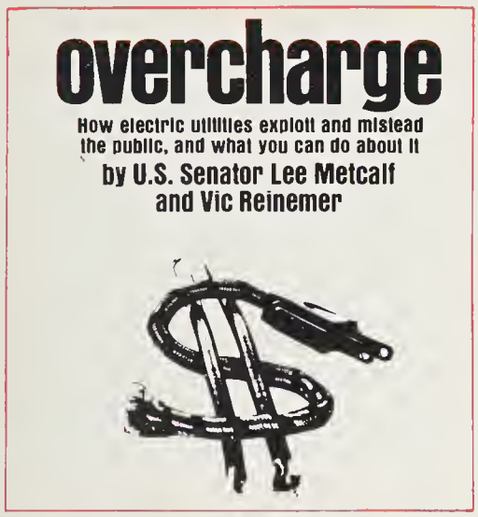
North Carolina cooperators were well represented on the five-day annual meeting program of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association held in San Francisco last month . . . .

. . The Women's Activities Committee of Tarheel Electric planned and conducted the Annual Vesper Service. Participating were: Mrs. Mayo Cherry, Edgecombe-Martin EMC; Mrs. J. J. Malpass, Four County EMC; Mrs. Barbara Deverick, Blue Ridge EMC; Mr. A. G. Wilcox, Jr., Halifax EMC; Mrs. Vernon Taylor, Roanoke EMC; Mrs. W. C. Carlton, Carteret-Craven EMC.

. . Also participating in panel sessions were W. C. Carlton, Carteret-Craven EMC Manager, and North Carolina's NRECA director; and J. C. Brown, Jr., Executive Manager of Tarheel Electric.

. . Tarheels serving on NRECA's standing committees are: C. E. Viverette, Blue Ridge EMC, Power and Water Resources: Alton P. Wall, Randolph EMC, Power and Generation; and A. A. Hathcock, Tarheel Electric, Public Relations and Member Education.

. . Mrs. William T. Crisp of Raleigh, wife of TEMA's general counsel, addressed a special women's session of the California meeting. Mr. Crisp conducted a legal seminar during the weekend preceding the meeting.


overcharge
How electric utilities exploit and mislead the public, and what you can do about it
by U.S. Senator Lee Metcalf and Vic Reinemer

A story so true it seems incredible.

A Cogent Study of a Lobby

Every American and certainly every American who uses electricity owes it to himself to read *Overcharge*. The authors, U. S. Senator Lee Metcalf and Vic Reinemer, and the publisher, David McKay Company of New York, present the most knowledgeable and complete study of the private power lobby possible to compress into a 338-page book.

Excesses Documented

Richard A. Pence, former editor of *The Carolina Farmer,* read *Overcharge* with a trained eye. He reviewed it for *The Rural Electric Minuteman* (which he now edits for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association). Here, as a timely sampling of the book, are highlights of his review:

What Metcalf and Reinemer have to say in *Overcharge* may not be "new" to people closely associated with the electric business. Nor was there anything "unexpected" about the stance which would be taken by Metcalf, long a fighter on behalf of consumer interests. The point is that, for the first time in many years, the excesses of I.O.U.s (Investor Owned Utilities) have been collected and documented between the covers of one book by authors who demand more than passing interest from the press and the public.

It seems incredible that the public has overlooked — and seemingly condoned — the state of affairs that is described by Metcalf and Reinemer. The picture is hardly a pretty one, but it unfolds something like this:

Monopolistic Giant

The electric power business is the largest—by far—industry in the United States (unless you count all of agriculture as one business). Over three-fourths of this business is in the hands of the private power companies. Just who the investors are who "own" these companies is difficult to discover. And whether or not the stockholders actually exert an influence on company policies is doubtful. For instance, one life insurance company has more than twice as much invested in the electric-power industry than the federal government has invested in TVA. Stockholders, may Metcalf and Reinemer, are divided into two categories: the persons who hold the proxy votes and decide policy and elections, and the other 99.

These private utilities—whoever their real owners—have managed to gain a position of almost unbelievable profit and privilege. Apathy on the part of the public and manipulation on the part of the companies explain how this position was gained.

All On One Side

Utility "regulation" comes in for most of the fault. Small utility commissions, operation with inadequate funds and trying to enforce laws stacked in favor of the companies, are simply overpowered by the I.O.U.s. Most commissions fix electric rates on the basis of a given rate of return (usually about six per cent) applied to a rate base, or value of plant investment. Rates are set so as to cover all operating expenses (including taxes) and leave enough money for the "reasonable" return to shareholders.

A commission, in order to accurately set rates, must find out what the utility's property is worth, and whether or not the operating expenses are reasonable and properly chargeable against the ratepayers. In reality it hasn't the resources to do this and must accept the utility's word for it. (Worse yet, some commissions prefer the utility word to those opposing the utility.)

Millions A Year

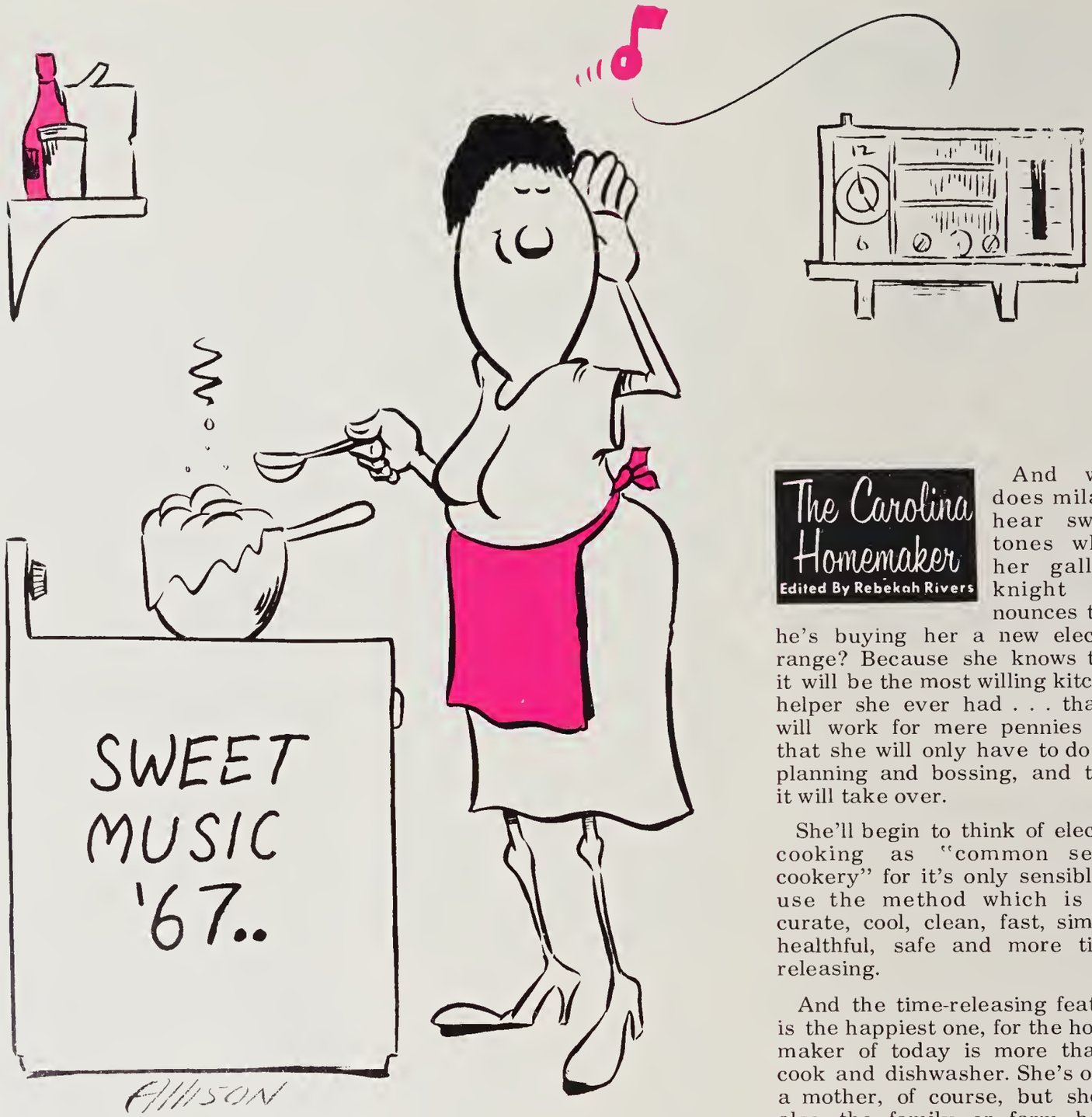
The upshot of the situation described in *Overcharge* is that the I.O.U.s are overcharging the American public to the tune of millions of dollars a year. And what's more, they're using the taxpayer's own money to brainwash him into liking it. Metcalf and Reinemer say it's the consumers, not the utilities, who are regulated.

What's the answer? Improved regulation through tighter laws and competition by example (such as provided by rural electric systems) are two suggestions forwarded by the authors. These two are dependent upon a third: public information.

"The public needs to know why power companies never fail, nor fail to make a profit, why their profits often exceed those of risk industries, why consumers do not get refunds of overcharges, how the utilities keep taxes, and how restricted stock options dilute the equity of ordinary electric-utility stockholders," say Metcalf and Reinemer.

"The public needs to know what is in the rate bases on which the utility gets it percentage, what retainers and extremist oranizations are on the utility payroll that is met by the customers, how much the actual rate of return exceeds the rate of return 'allowed' by the regulatory commission."

Metcalf and Reinemer provide the public with the information it needs. There can be no doubt that *Overcharge* is an important book. It now remains to be seen if the press and the public will recognize it as such. Or have the power companies done their brainwashing job so well that this, too, will be shrugged off by an unconcerned society?



. . . for the little lady who cooks the FLAMELESS way!

The Carolina Homemaker

Edited By Rebekah Rivers

And why does milady hear sweet tones when her gallant knight announces that he's buying her a new electric range? Because she knows that it will be the most willing kitchen helper she ever had . . . that it will work for mere pennies . . . that she will only have to do the planning and bossing, and then it will take over.

She'll begin to think of electric cooking as "common sense cookery" for it's only sensible to use the method which is accurate, cool, clean, fast, simple, healthful, safe and more time-releasing.

And the time-releasing feature is the happiest one, for the homemaker of today is more than a cook and dishwasher. She's often a mother, of course, but she is also the family or farm bookkeeper, an active force in community and rural improvement organizations.

She sews and sweeps and mops and washes and dries and irons and dusts and picks up and makes bed and keeps the yard. She also plans, organizes and participates in the family entertainment.

And she is called upon more and more, as rural agri-business becomes more competitive, to join and serve in organizations which promote agriculture in general and which sell her husbands products in particular.

Also, an increasing number of homemakers work outside the home. All these activities leave precious little time to stand over a stove making old-fashioned biscuits.

The new electric ranges liberate the homemaker from time-consuming cooking chores, as they help her to serve superior meals. She can put dinner in the oven, set a few dials, and leave the house for the afternoon. When the family comes in, the oven has turned itself on, cooked dinner, turned itself off, and kept everything warm until serving time. An automatic meat thermometer can be set to cook roasts to the desired "doneness," without guesswork or "fork-probing" and then turn down to "keep warm" or signal when done.

The homemaker can leave the kitchen to do other things while cooking on top of the range, too. Timers can be set to turn surface units on and off. Thermostatic controls bring food to the correct cooking temperature and hold it there. The stew will simmer without going up to a boil. Pot watching is a thing of the past!

Cleaning the range has been made as effortless as can be. Many new ovens clean themselves (see "Carolina Homemaker," February), burning off soil at high heat. Other new ovens have easy-to-clean features such as doors that lift off and liners that pull out or lift out for washing at the sink. Some of these are teflon-coated for even easier cleaning.

One-piece cooking tops come recessed to prevent spillovers. Control knobs come off. Surface units lift up or come off for easy cleaning, too.

Electric cooking is clean in itself—no smoke to smudge pots and pans or to dull the bright colorful curtains and walls. And so the homemaker saves time in cleaning the kitchen, too.

The new electric ranges eliminate cooking drudgery to give busy modern homemakers time for creative cooking fun. She is liberated—free to pursue whatever activities she desires, knowing that she still can provide the best meals ever for her happy family.

Checks for Range Cleaning

A clean range lasts longer . . . performs better . . . adds sparkle to the kitchen. The 1967 ranges make cleaning a breeze. In cleaning your range, or in looking for a new one, check these points (along with your user's manual):

Checkpoint 1: The Cabinet

Today's range designs generally use acid-resistant porcelain enamel. Chrome or stainless steel are often used, too. All of these are easy to keep clean. Clean all sides and top of range with suds and a soft cloth. You may use a commercial product made for appliances if you like.

Checkpoint 2: The Control Panel

- Control knobs or pushbuttons: Clean with a soft cloth or brush. On many of the new models, knobs are removable and may be cleaned at the sink.
- Clock and glass diffuser over the light: New designs are smooth, without corners and crevices that will catch dirt. Give them an extra sparkle by using a spray-on glass cleaner.
- Minute minder, and other dials may be removable. Clean with suds and a soft cloth. If you like, you can use silver polish on the chrome parts, but they can be shined with only a soft cloth.

Checkpoint 3: The Cooking Top

- Many ranges offer raised edges on the cooking top to prevent spills from streaming down the sides. End panels at counter height do away with the crumb-catching crevices between range and base cabinets.
- The surface units are self-cleaning. They burn off any food spilled on them. If you like, you may wipe them off with a damp cloth when cool. On most electric ranges, the surface units are hinged, and can be lifted up for easy suds and water cleaning under the surface units.
- Some models offer the extra convenience of units that are plugged into the range so that they can be lifted right out for easy cleaning. On other models, the whole cooking top tilts up for easy cleaning under the surface units.
- Drip pans can be wiped off or washed in dishwasher or at the sink. Use steel wool if necessary.
- Chrome rings may also be removable. Wipe clean. Remove deposits with non-abrasive household cleaner. Polish with a soft cloth.

Checkpoint 4: The Oven

- Oven lining. Many of the new range models have pull-out or removable oven wall liners and bottoms—of teflon, chrome, porcelain, rigid aluminum or aluminum foil. These can be taken to the sink for easy cleaning. Other liners are disposable. On some ovens, the whole oven interior unplugs and pulls out for easy cleaning.

  If liner is porcelain enamel, clean all sides with suds and soft cloth. Use fine steel wool and a cleanser on stubborn spots. If further attention is needed, put household ammonia in a non-aluminum container and leave it in the oven several hours or overnight. Remove softener deposits. If necessary, use a commercial oven cleaner, carefully following instructions.
- Oven doors. New oven doors help to make cleaning easy, too. Some doors drop down or lift off. On some eye level models, the doors glide out and tilt for easy cleaning of both sides of the door. A little spray window cleaner on the glass in oven doors will make it sparkle. Polish with a soft cloth.
- Heating Elements. The oven heating elements are self-cleaning, just as the surface units are.
- Shelves. Remove to the sink. Soak if necessary. Use household cleanser or fine steel wool. Polish with a soft cloth.

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Family FARE

By ERMA ANGEVINE

"Slum Writer Returns to Garbage Collecting." My headline scanning stopped as I read another brief chapter in Carolina Maria de Jesus' story. I frist heard of her four years ago.

Carolina lived in the slum area of Sao Paulo, Brazil. She had three small children and less than two years of schooling. To get food for herself and her children, she joined the ranks of many who wander the city's streets looking in garbage cans for salable refuse, eatable refuse, or useable refuse.

Her shelter was a jumble of boards and pieces of tin held together with old nails and wire. She and her children wore what she found, ate what she foraged. Mostly they were hungry.

Carolina found some solace each evening by writing her thoughts on scraps of paper she salvaged from the garbage. She tied these papers together into "notebooks" with salvaged string. She didn't write because she liked to—she wrote because she had to, because she was driven to set down her despair.

One day a newspaper reporter, Audalio, came to the slums to find out what the people were like. He heard of Carolina, how she spent many evenings writing. He interviewed her and persuaded her to let him take her "notebooks" and read them. Here he found what it means to live on the raw edge of despair. Hunger stared up from every page.

Avdalio was so moved by what he read that he asked permission to have it published. He spend more than a year editing Carolina's 26 "notebooks" before publishing them in 1960. In the next two years the diary was translated and published in 14 countries. Carolina called it *Quarto de Despejo* (Garbage Room). In other countries it was called *Diary of Hunger* or *Child of the Dark*.

Brazilian sales of the book enabled Carolina to move into a brick suburban house, put her children in school, sleep in a bed, and—most important—have enough to eat.

Isolated from the familiar, sordid social structure she knew, she apparently lost her way. In the marginal world she described so poignantly, people hated and distrusted one another yet they seemed to care about and understand each other. In the steril world to which she moved, she was along—an outcast.

She used up her money and returned to the slums—to garbage collecting, to writing and speaking her thoughts, to her daily fight for survival. Hers is one of the very few books ever written about the lowest and poorest by one of themselves.

Sufficient Unto Herself

By Florence King

All during my childhood Aunt Mattie was a living legend. She was really my great aunt, my grandmother's sister. Mattie was the oldest, Sadie the middle, and my grandmother was "the baby."

Sadie was the talented one. She played the piano and sang, both willingly and well. My grandmother was the pretty one who always managed to be babied by somebody even when she held her fourth grandchild (me) in her lap.

Aunt Mattie was neither pretty nor talented. While her sisters were short and slender, with blue eyes, Aunt Mattie was tall and big-boned with brown eyes. She never had much to say, and her face was always set in Indian seriousness, but there was something about her that made even her sisters call her Aunt Mattie.

Nobody But Henry

As a girl she had only one beau — Uncle Henry, who went through her life like he went through his money: fast. For some reason my grandmother and Aunt Sadie could never fathom, Henry fell wildly in love with Mattie instead of one of them. Aunt Mattie did everything she could to discourage him, including hiding, but he would not leave her alone.

Aunt Mattie's reasoning was simple. "I married him to get rid of him," she said later. Two weeks after they got back from their honeymoon, Henry couldn't be found in the house. One year and a baby later, he couldn't be found at all.

George, the son, promised from an early age to take after his father, and that turned out to be the only promise he ever willingly kept in his life. He was different from Henry in only one way — he had *one constant* passion: baseball.

A Wife for George

George just had to have a catcher's mitt — then switched to pitching because he had to have Helen, who wouldn't date anybody except pitchers. It couldn't be a left fielder or a first baseman, or shortstop: It had to be a pitcher.

The big game of the sandlot series found George pitching in the top of the ninth. Each team had won three games. The score was tied. The bases were loaded. The count on the batter was three-two. George was starting his windup and Helen was in the family way.

Just then the crowd's excited hum fell off. The umpires lifted their masks in amazement. The batter put down his bat and George froze with one leg high above his head, looking for the moment like a hairy can-can dancer.

Aunt Mattie was walking slowly across the field, heading toward the mound. She might have been walking across her yard for all the notice she took of the scores of people watching her. At that moment, she had a bigger audience than Sadie ever drew for one of her musicales, but she never saw any of them. Her eyes were fixed on her son.

"Come with me, George," she said. "We're going to the courthouse." Before he could argue she took him by the arm and led him off the field, past the third base coach, the dugout, the staring bat boys and all the fans.

Shortly after George and Helen celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, the family — a social worker among the members — gathered to make plans for Aunt Mattie. She was getting old, over 80 now, and the family didn't feel she could be left alone in the big house.

"She can't get along by herself," said Helen. "George and I have found a very refined retired librarian who wants to be an elderly lady's companion. We'll send them on a trip to Florida and pay their way."

"She's getting nervous," said my brother. "People her age have bad nerves. They're afraid of being alone."

"Senility," said the social worker, "brings unconscious, unreasonable fears."

Then Silence Fell

Helen suddenly motioned for all to be quiet. "Shhh! Here she comes."

Silence fell, just as it had that

(Continued on Page 16)

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Aunt Mattie --from page 15

day on the sandlot. Aunt Mattie's hair was snow white and worn in one long pigtail down her back. The olive skin of her cheeks was so deeply crevassed with lines that she looked like a rock exposed to 80 years of relentless rains.

Helen swallowed. "Now. . .Aunt Mattie, we've been worried about you," she began.

The old mouth quivered almost imperceptively. "You needn't. I'm not about to strike out."

"Why, honey, we know you're not!" my brother broke in. "You've got years ahead of you! Why, you're the best-looking woman I've seen in many a year. You—"

"I was always homely," she said simply.

With that she left the room. We heard her walk down the long hallway to the back bedroom where she always slept and shut the door. She was gone about ten minutes. During that time, Helen clicked her tongue, my grandmother clicked her knitting needles and the social worker clicked the rings of her looseleaf notebook.

Solace in Cabbages

"We've offended her," Helen moaned. "I'll bet she's crying, poor thing."

Just then we heard the door open. Aunt Mattie returned. She stood on the threshold and looked at us before she finally spoke.

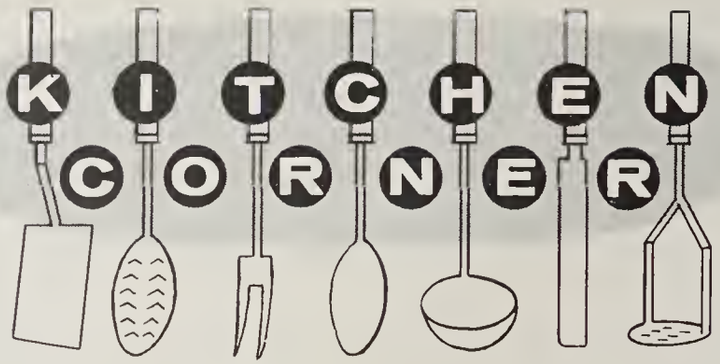
"I've had my vacation and my rest — the one I've always taken, all these years, when things get too bad."

"Wh. . .What do you mean, Aunt Mattie?" Helen asked nervously. Then, in an aside whisper to George: "She's getting. . .funny."

"No," said Aunt Mattie, "I'm not. I'm serious. But as for your question. . .

"Whenever I feel that I just can't go on alone, as you say, I walk into my room and close the door. Then I say to myself: 'My refuge and my fortress. . .The peace of God which passeth understanding.' Now if you folks will excuse me, I've got to get to my garden before those cabbages rot in the ground."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



After-School and Party Tid-Bits

An Eastern North Carolina rural electric homemaker sends us her recipe for cheese straws, which, she says, "is one we all enjoy and is especially good for after school snacks with a glass of milk." (The editor adds that it is a natural for a spring tea and should be tucked away for the Christmas holidays since cheese straws have become almost as traditional Yuletide fare as the fruit cake.) Mrs. K. L. Spencer, a Pamlico-Beaufort Electric Membership Cooperation member, also says of her recipe: "It is quick and very easy to make."

Mrs. Spencer has nice things to say about her member-magazine, *The Carolina Farmer*: "We enjoy all the articles, especially Teen Roundtable and the recipes. The "Hale" page is also a favorite with the children."

The Spencers live at Hobucken and are members of the Hobucken Methodist Church. They have six children—five at home and one married daughter.

If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share through this column, send it to: Rebekah Rivers, Kitchen Corner,P.O. Box 1699, Raleigh. Tell us something about yourself and family and give us the name of your electric membership corporation. We pay $2 for the recipe chosen monthly for this column.

CAROLINA FARMER RECIPE

Submitted by Mrs. K. L. Spencer, Hobucken, N. C.

CHEESE STRAWS

1 cup fresh bred crumbs
2/3 cup flower
1 T. butter
1/2 t. salt
1 cup grated cheese
Dash of cayenne (optional)

2 T. milk (or enough to moisten)

Mix crumbs, flour, butter, cheese, and seasoning. Moisten with the milk. Roll or pat 1/4-inch thick and cut into strips 1/4-inch wide and about 4 inches long. Bake in over 375 degrees F. until brown.

Pattern No. 9285 is cut in sizes 2, 4, 6 and 8.
Pattern No. 4521 is cut in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48.
Pattern No. 4552 is cut in sizes 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.
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Send 50 cents in coin (no stamps) for each pattern to: CAROLINA FARMER, Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10011. For first-class mail, add 15 cents for each pattern.

Becky's ALMANAC

"Ah, to be in England
Now that April's there."
—ROBERT BROWNING

* * * * * * *

April carries us well into spring, that villain who robs us of our peace of mind, upsets our mental routine, and renews faded memories. Spring, the temptress who coaxes us from our work, who causes us to wonder whether, after all, ambition is not illusion. Steel yourself to resist her . . . take a firm grip on respectability and hum-drum habits.

* * * * * * *

CAN YOUR HOUSE PASS THE TEST? Is the TV picture often distorted? Do you have frequent appliance trouble? Are you plaqued with blown fuses? Do you have too few outlets? If you answered yes to one or more of these symptoms of inadequate wiring, you probably need larger entrance equipment (fuse box) for your home. For safety's sake, have your wiring checked. Your rural electric cooperative will be glad to give you free, expert advice.

* * * * * * *

WORKING WIVES. A recent survey of wives who keep house and have had an outside job 5 years or more has this advice for newcomers: (1) Don't try to remember everything. Write memos to yourself and to other members of the family. (2) Use a bulletin board in family room to get and give messages. (3) Keep appliance instructions in special place handy to repairmen and to the other members of the family. (4) Organize cleaning supplies to encourage orderliness in each room.

* * * * * * *

FLAMELESS COOKBOOK
An excellent, attractive booklet, "Electric Cooking the Easy Flameless Way," has been prepared by the Edison Electric Institute. It contains suggestions on and recipes for flameless cooking, and is available for only 50¢ from the Edison Institute, 750 Third Avenue, New York 17, New York.

Classmates Think He's Shy: 'How May He Correct This?'

"A shy impression can be corrected by proving that you are not shy. The best way to prove that you aren't shy is to be genuinely friendly and interested in your classmates. Are you usually the first to say "Hi, how are you?" Or do you find yourself responding only to others' questions? Don't put on a false front; just indicate your good intentions on the outside. Be brave; start conversations. You don't have to be fluent with words. Give of yourself freely in class discussions. Your opinions are valuable. Classmates will think so, too. Dating your favorite girls is a good way to break the ice and get acquainted with many people. Word gets around among the girls fast. A slight detection of shyness is admirable in most people. Just don't let shyness dominate your personality so that others will not see the real person you are."

Gayle Johnson
Rt. 1, Box 310
Harmony

Gayle is 17 and a senior at North Iredell High School. She enjoys piano, guitar, singing, and writing. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reece Johnson, are served by Davie Electric Membership Corporation.

* * *

"Maybe your classmates think you're shy because you don't take part in social activities or you hold back what you might have to add in conversations. Just take more of a part in everything and be your natural self. Your friends will soon discover they have made a mistake."

Sandra Beam
Rt. 1
Iron Station

Sandra is 15 and a sophomore at Lincolnton High School. Her hobbies are reading and sketching. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Beam, are served by Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation.

* * *

"If you really want to correct your shyness, you must force yourself to "break the ice" and be friendly and helpful in a conversation. Join a club, be active in civic affairs, and your shyness will disappear. Another helpful thing to do is to discuss your problem with someone whom you think is shy. You could probably work your problem out together."

Rebecca McIntosh
Rt. 2, Box 212
Weaverville

Rebecca is 13 and in the eight grade at Beech Glen School. She enjoys writing, sewing, typing, collecting stamps, and participating in 4-H Club work. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank McIntosh, are served by French Broad Electric Membership Corporation.

* * *

"Associate in different school activities in which your classmates are interested and seem to enjoy. In doing this, you will meet and get to know various types of people. However, it is very important for a person to know himself within; then he can correct his shyness or any other problem that might arise."

Gayle Lanier
Rt. 10, Box 87
Lexington

Gayle is a senior at North Davidson High School. She enjoys all kinds of sports and enjoys meeting new friends. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lanier, are served by Davidson Electric Membership Corporation.

Teen ROUNDTABLE

If you have a good answer, send it to THE TEEN ROUNDTABLE, The Carolina Farmer, P. O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C., at once. Send a photo, too, if you have one, (we can't return it) and a few facts about yourself. Include your parents' name, and the name of the electric membership corporation serving you. If your answer is published, we will send you $5.

If you want to submit a question, send it along for our statewide panel to answer. For each question used, the sender will get a $5 check. Jot yours down and send it to us right away.

NEXT QUESTION

"If you should see your best friend cheating on an exam, should you report him?"

This question was submitted by Shelia Ann McIntosh, who will be receiving $5 from THE CAROLINA FARMER. Shelia is 13 and in the eighth grade at Burnsville Elementary School. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack E. McIntosh, are members of French Broad Electric Membership Corporation.

Macon Houses--from page 9

He further views self-help housing programs as a means of boosting community life in Appalachia. Traditional mountain independence and weak sense of community are among the main obstacles to the area's poor; but if they could cooperate on a project with a relatively quick personal pay-off for each family, perhaps they would see the benefits of group effort.

New Skills for Security

The program also gives the men valuable training in construction skills. Most of them have been "handmen" all their lives, but few could make money during the long mountain winter in the construction industry. Work is plentiful during the summer, but wages and jobs fade when tourism withers each September. Now men who had no skills to sell will be able to enter the winter job market with the experience of building their own and their neighbors' homes.

Fred Woodall's new home sits on a ridge surrounded by Hogback, Painter and Cole Mountain. He watched the last weatherboards go into place with relief and pride.

"This sure is a good way for a poor man to get a house," he said. "In fact, it's about the only way."

PASSING SCENE

DIED—Mrs. Madge Hatley, for many years office services supervisor, Caldwell District Office, Blue Ridge EMC, on January 25. Mrs. Hatley is survived by her husband, Lee Hatley, manager, Burke McDowell EMC, Morganton, and two daughters.

* * *

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT—Mrs. Barbara Deverick, director of management services, Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, participated in the twelfth annual "Spotlight on Women" conference, held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, February 25-26. Mrs. Deverick was one of a five member panel which discussed the program theme.

* * *

AROUND THE HOUSE by Arlon Hatlock

Springtime In A Box

An electric heat pump will give you real year-round comfort without lifting a finger. Well, almost without lifting a finger. You do have to set the thermostat ONCE when the unit is first installed.

And after the finger has dialed the perfect moment of climate that you want for your home, you can sit back and relax and let the miraculous machine do the rest.

For an electric heat pump heats AND cools, and automatically changes from one to the other as the outside weather changes. Outside temperatures can be 90 degrees one day and 30 degrees the next and your home will stay at the degree of springtime comfort that you orginally dialed on the thermostat.

The amazing heat pump needs only electricity and air to provide you with year-round climate control. When cooling is required, it extracts heat and moisture from the inside air and discharges them outdoors.

When heating is needed, it reverses the operation, extracting heat from the outdoor air (there's extractable heat in the air even on cold days) and delivering it at a higher temperature to the indoor air.

The heat pump also dehumidifies, filters and cleans the air. It will even rid your rooms quickly and quietly of tobacco smoke.

It is the only comfort conditioning system that automatically switches from heating to cooling and back again as the weather requires.

If you're building this spring consider the advantages of a heat pump for your new home. Contact the power use man at your local electric cooperative. His advice and assistance is free.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Have an idea or helpful hint for the home handyman? Why not share it with other readers through this column. Through this column we'd like to make those things to do around the house less complicated and less expensive for you. And we'll try to keep you informed of the free services offered you by your local electric cooperative. Send your ideas and suggestions to: Home Handyman, P. O. Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C. 27602

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COLONIAL STUDIO

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Four County Is Five, One Beverage Is Two

Everything happens to Bill Beverage in June.

He was born in June. He got married in June. He became manager of Four County Electric Membership Corporation in June.

Luther Pershing Beverage has two jobs and one purpose. As manager of Four County Elec- Membership Corporation at Burgaw he sees to the delivery of electricity to the cooperative's 12,032 owner-members. As president of the statewide North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation he directs the handling of power arrangements for 32 cooperatives serving approximately 225,000 members.

His goal for both is to obtain and provide an abundance of electricity at the lowest possible cost.

The goal is still before him, but there has been progress. In 1938-39 Four County's members used an average of 22 kilowatt hours of current a month. In 1948, the average was 74 kwh. It's now about 468 kwh a month. As consumption has climbed, costs have declined. In 1948, Four County paid an average of 1.6 cents per kwh for its current. It now pays 7.3 mills per pwh. In 1939, Four County's members paid an average of 8.5 cents per kilowatt hour. In 1949, the average was 4.88 cents. It now is 2.2 cents.

What's in a Name?

Bill Beverage was born in Princeton, W.Va., June 27, 1919, the son of a coal company accountant. Bill has two sisters; one lives in Richmond, Va., and the other in San Antonio, Texas.

How did Luther Pershing Beverage come to be known as Bill?

"The story goes," says Bill, "that my mother didn't like the name Luther so she called me Bill . . . My father's name was Bill."

The young Beverage's mother died when Bill was about five years old, and he and his sisters went to live with their mother's parents in Blackstone, Va. Their father died about 20 years later.

Mrs. Beverage and French door oven.

A Virginia Bride

Mrs. "Bill" Beverage is the former Virginia Bowman of Blackstone. She worked for a lawyer who was attorney for the Southside Electric Cooperative with which Bill got his start. The Beverages were married in June, 1940.

Bill began working for Southside while still a high school student. By the time he was graduated in 1937, he was able to qualify for a job with a field engineer. In 1940, he became plant superintendent for Northern Neck Electric Cooperative. Passed over by the Draft, he went to work in 1942 for the DuPont Company at Richmond, and at about the same time he began taking night school courses in electrical engineering.

DuPont generated its own power at Richmond, and Bill worked in first in its electrical trainee program and later in its generating department.

He left Richmond in 1946 and went with the Prince George Electric Cooperative at Waverly, Va., as project engineer, rising to manager soon after his arrival.

A Career of Service

He began his career as manager of Four County at Burgaw in June, 1948.

The Beverages live on Burgaw's Bickett Street, three blocks from Four County's large, modern and well-outfitted headquarters, in a three-bedroom ranch style brick home which Bill designed and had built in 1961.

Bill Beverage at his headquarters.

Naturally, the house is all-electric, with a heat pump to warm it in winter and cool it in summer.

Among its features is a built-in high-fidelity stereo music system, which Bill put together from components. The record player is located between the living room and family room in a special five-by-eight-foot alcove, with remote speakers placed so that the music can be heard throughout the house. The music ranges from classical and semi-classical to popular; Bill has a varied taste.

In the kitchen there's an oven with French doors. "My wife has short arms," Bill explains, "and her oven doors open side ways which cuts the depth of them in half."

It's a convenient house and comfortable house. It's the kind EMC Manager Beverage can recommend without reservation to his members.

With all electric conveniences and year-round climate control, his power bill for heating, cooking, cooling and everything runs to an average of about $35 a month.

The Beverages have two sons and one grandson. Worth, 25, the grandson's father, is assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Eastern North Carolina in Burgaw. Robert, 19, is a freshman at Wilmington College.

Four County EMC is actually a five-county system. The four counties from which it takes its name are Pender, Duplin, Sampson and Bladen, but it also serves a narrow neck of Columbus.

Double-Duty Cooperator: Four County's L.P. "Bill" Beverage at his desk in Burgaw.

Four County's membership has tripled in the past two decades, The growth has come largely in the electrification of farms and in family expansions.

"We know there are some unelectrified farms out there," Beverage concedes, "but there's no one who wants service who doesn't have it."

The growth has been paced by losses, and therein is the evidence of a change working throughout rural Eastern North Carolina.

In the recent 12 months Four County lost 281 power users. These represented homes that were abandoned as the area gave way to urbanization and the relocation of farm families and farm laborers. This process, Beverage observes, has been going on about 10 years. In the same 12 months, the system added service to 432 new houses. A small part has been people moving out from town, into rural sections; the larger share of the total represents the growth of families: the new homes established when children of user-families grew up and married.

The high average monthly kilowatt hour usage of current results chiefly, Beverage says, from the increasing electrification of homes. There are no large industries and no municipalities served by Four County's lines. The industries and towns are served by Carolina Power and Light Company. The closest municipally-owned system is at Lumberton. That's about eight miles from Bill's balliwick.

Buggs Island Bargainer

Bill Beverage and Carolina Power and Light Company have been through a lot together. Not all of it has been harmonious.

Their relationship was particularly strained in the Buggs Island dam controversy. Buggs Island which has become the John H. Kerr reservoir and hydro-electric dam projects is source of federally-generated power which CP&L and its private power associates share with the Virginia and North Carolina electric membership cooperatives through the federal Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA).

Beverage participated in the negotiations for the cooperatives as president of the Eastern Carolina EMC.

The negotiations started in 1950 and ended in 1953. "If you can say they ever stopped" Bill says wryly, "but that was the first phase."

Kerr Dam was not completed until 1955. The power from it began flowing to the EMC systems in 1956. The agreement which resulted from the negotiations was an admitted compromise. The private power companise were allocated two-thirds of the dam's electric output and the electric cooperatives the remaining one-third.

Four County's quota has been fixed since February 1956, at 3,000 kilowatts. At the start Four County was getting about 33 percent of its power needs from SEPA. Now the quota provides it with only about 17 percent.

"Of course," Bill Beverage says, "we didn't like the idea of giving private power the major share, but this was something that had to be traded out."

With the SEPA controversy behind it, Eastern North Carolina EMC was reorganized as North Carolina EMC and took over the handling of bulk power negotiations on a statewide basis. Beverage has been president or vice president throughout the life of the organization.

"The main job," he says, "is to assist the cooperatives in getting an adequate supply of power at a reasonable cost and to promote the development of our water resources with emphasis on hydro-electric development."

For Better Relations

The future for Bill Beverage is built on a past of achievement. It's a future which would bring a better relationship between electric users and electric suppliers, whether public or private.

"The number one problem," as he sees it, "is getting an understanding from the private power companies that our primary concern is getting an abundance of low cost power and the development of our natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations."

Bill is a member and past president of the Burgaw Rotary Club; secretary-treasurer of the Pender County Industrial Development Corporation (and a member of its board of directors); a member of the Burgaw Athletic Club (which works to develop recreational facilities for the section's young people); a former member of the Burgaw Town Board, and a leader in efforts to develop the southeastern North Carolina which Four County serves.

He stands firm for public power, but he doesn't see himself hopelessly in conflict with private power.

"We have no desire to take over the private power companies," he says.

"We only want cooperation."

RURAL ELECTRIC PROFILE

It Figures

Two hoboes were picked up for vagrancy. When the first one was asked for his address, he replied, "My address is everywhere—the fields, the woods, the beach."

"And you?" the clerk asked the next man.

"I live next door to him."

Following Orders

The worried patient was visiting his doctor for a checkup.

said the doctor: "Have you been smiling at your troubles as I advised you to do?'

The patient replied: "Yes, and the boss warned me three times to wipe that silly grin off my face and get to work."

Agreed

The doctor came out of the bedroom to the anxious wife. "Frankly I don't like the way your husband looks at all."

"I don't either, Doc. "the wife replied, "but he is nice to the kids."

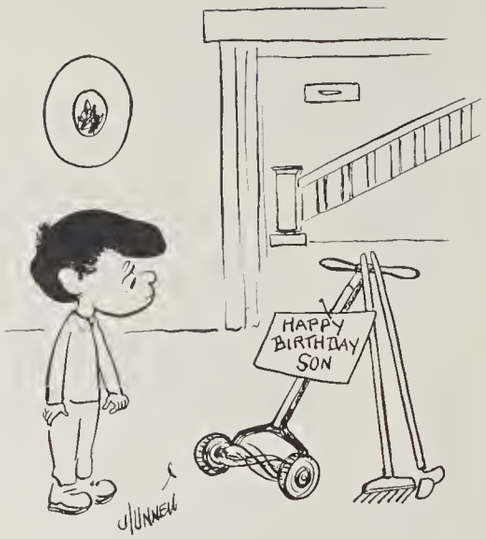
Wave On

In a kindergarten class, several flags were shown. "What flag is this?" asked the teacher.

"That is the flag of my country," answered a bright youngster.

"And what is the name of your country?"

Tis of thee," replied the bright one.



HALE!

Makes Sense

The school teacher was discussing proper manners with her young class.

"And do you know why we must cover our mouths when we yawn?"

"One bright lad jumped up with, "To keep our bubble gum from falling out."

Mislead

Two secretaries were talking about their dates. The first explained: "My date was terrible, really terrible. He not only lied about the size of his yacht, but he made me row!"

Watch that Guy

The psychiatrist came storming into the hospital chief's office.

"Jones has shoved me to the limits of my patience, "he screamed.

"Being nuts is no excuse. This time he has heaped the final straw on me."

"What happened?" asked the chief.

"He asked me if he could have a date with my wife," yelled the psychiatrist.

"Was that your wife who picked you up in a station wagon after work yesterday?" inquired the chief.

"Yes."

"Then put Jones under close observation." ordered the chief.

"He's crazier than I thought."

Not Me

Golfer: "You must be the worst caddie in the world."

Caddie: "Hardly, sir. That would be too much of a coincidence."

"Other older women knit, Grandma—why can't you?"

"I have a sore arm. My electric toothbrush quit, and I had to brush manually!"

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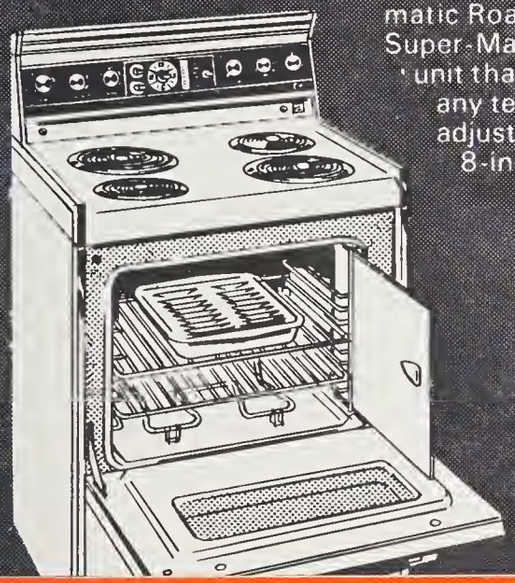

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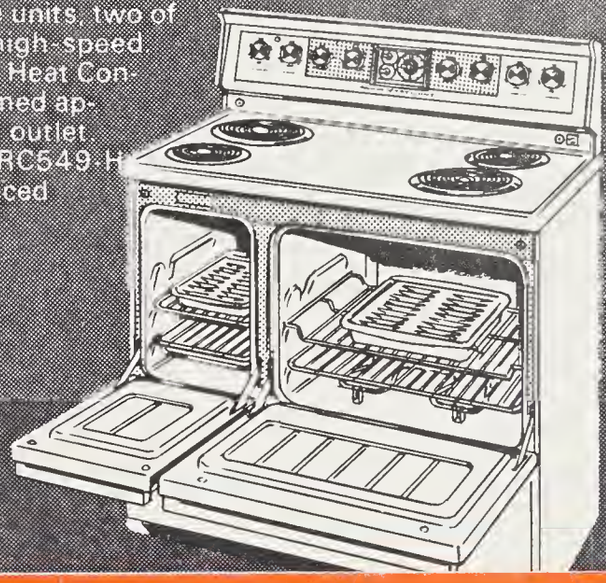

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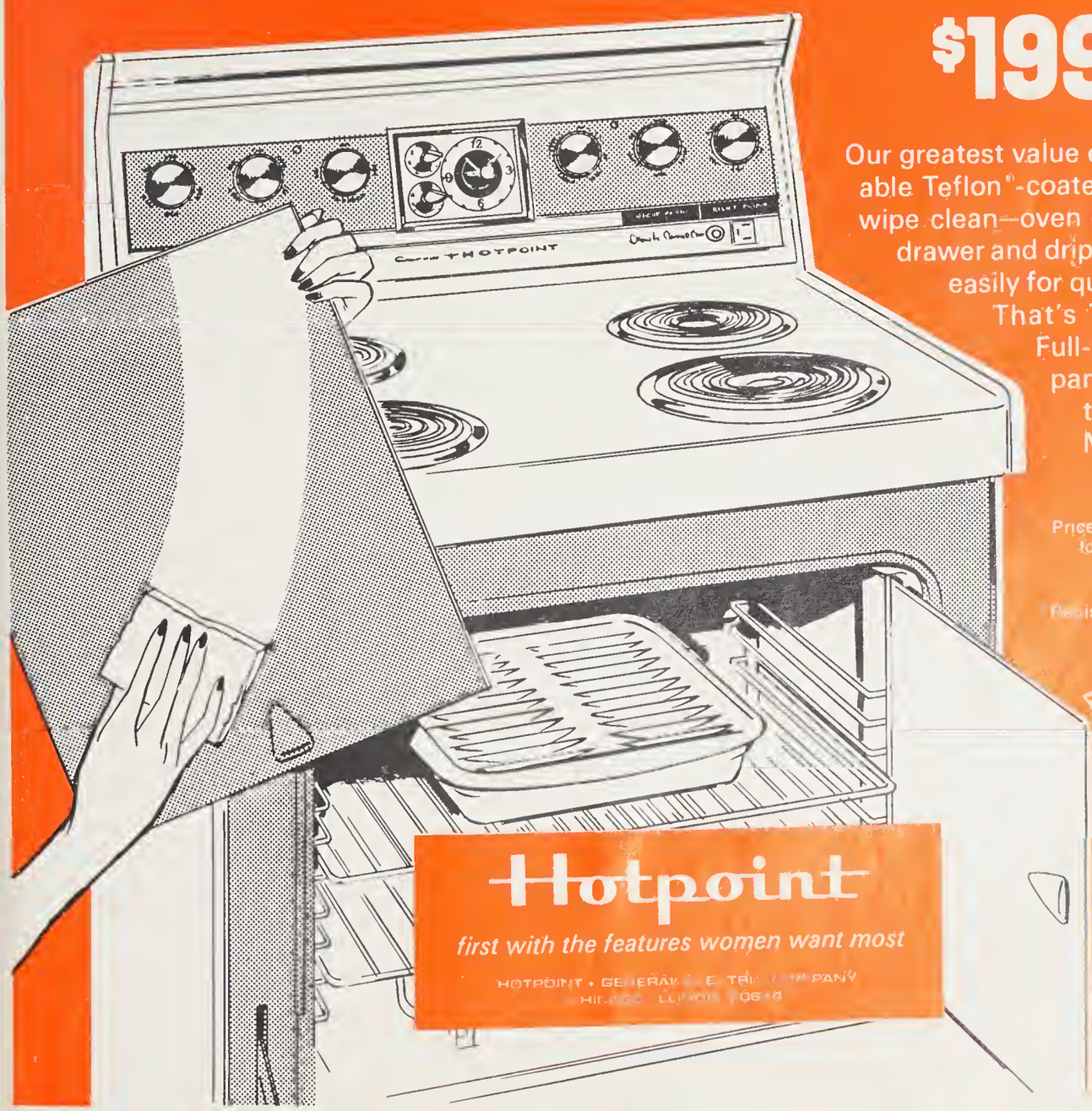

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